

**In the claims:**

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle comprising a fluorescent organic dye covalently conjugated to an organo-silane compound, wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4 nm to about 200 nm.

15. (Previously Presented) The fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle of claim 14 wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4 nm to about 100 nm.

16. (Previously Presented) The fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle of claim 14 wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4 nm to about 50 nm.

17. (Previously Presented) The fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle of claim 14 wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4 nm to about 30 nm.

18. (Previously Presented) The fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle of claim 14 wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4.4 nm to about 34 nm.

19. (Previously Presented) The fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle of claim 14 wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4.4 nm to about 30 nm.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of making a fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle comprising:

mixing a fluorescent organic dye and an organo-silane compound to form a dye precursor; and

co-condensing the resulting dye precursor with a silica to form a fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle.

21. (Previously Presented) A fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle made by the method of claim 20.

## CONCLUSION

Given the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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